

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/753,941

Applicant(s)

OKADA ET AL.

Examiner

Michael C. Heck

Art Unit.

3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment of 11 July 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 5-9.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 8/22/03; 6/27/05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

ROMAN JEANTY
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Art Unit 3623

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Stephen J. Manetta, Reg. No. 40,426 on 27 September 2005. The application has been amended as follows:

On Claim 1, delete, "a work assignment subsystem capable of inputting data of a predetermined composition condition", and insert – a work assignment subsystem **for** inputting data of a predetermined composition condition –.

Art Unit: 3623

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Michael C. Heck whose telephone number is (571) 272-6730. The Examiner can normally be reached Monday thru Friday between the hours of 8:30am - 4:30pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq R. Hafiz can be reached on (571) 273-6729.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300

[Official communications; including After Final communications labeled "**Box AF**"]

(571) 273-6730

[Informal/Draft communication, labeled "**PROPOSED**" or "**DRAFT**"]

MCH
mch

27 September 2005

Response to Amendment

1. The objection to the drawings in the last Office Action regarding reference character 4801 and figure 66 has been withdrawn.
2. The objection to the drawings in the last Office Action excluding reference character 4801 and figure 66 has been overcome by the applicant's amendment to the drawings and specification.
3. The objection to the abstract in the last Office Action has been overcome by the applicant's amendment to the abstract.
4. The objection to the specification in the last Office Action has been overcome by the applicant's amendment to the specification.
5. The 35 USC 112 second paragraph rejection in the last Office Action for claims 2, 4, 11 and 12 is moot since the applicant has canceled the claims, therefore the 35 USC 112 second paragraph rejection for claims 2, 4, 11 and 12 is withdrawn.
6. The 35 USC 101 rejection in the last Office Action for claims 1-18 has been overcome by the applicant's amendment to the claims.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

7. Claims 1 and 5-9 are allowed.
8. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention of claim 1 discloses an assembly information management system for creating/editing/managing work standard data related to an assembly work of various goods to manage the assembly work of the goods. The system comprises a

Art Unit: 3623

work standard creation subsystem having a database accumulating operation phrases representing an operation of the work, object phrases representing a target of the operation, and comment phrases; a retrieving unit for retrieving, from the database, the operation phrases including a first character designated by a user, object phrases including a second character designated by the user, and comment phrases including a third character designated by the user, and a selecting unit for selecting one operation phrase from the retrieved operation phrases, selecting one object phrase from the retrieved object phrases, and selecting one comment phrase from the retrieved comment phrases, according to an operation by the user, and a first storage unit for storing the selected operation, object and comment phrases as work standard data; a standard manhour database having a second storage unit for storing records each constituted by the work standard data described by an operation phrase, object phrase, and comment phrase and a standard manhour associated with the work standard data; a standard manhour setting subsystem connected to said work standard creation subsystem and said standard manhour database, said standard manhour setting subsystem having a matching search unit for executing a matching search of each record of the standard manhour database based on a phrase portion for the work standard data, to which the standard manhour is to be set, from said work standard creation subsystem, and for assigning the standard manhour according to the searched record as a set manhour for the work standard data; and a work assignment subsystem for inputting data of a predetermined composition condition, said work assignment subsystem having a download unit for downloading the work standard data with the

Art Unit: 3623

assigned manhour data from said standard manhour setting subsystem and a composing unit for divisionally composing the work standard data to a plurality of stations on the basis of the composition condition.

The closest prior art, Jones et al. (U.S. Patent 5,980,084) teach a method and apparatus for automated assembly in which the process begins by inputting a model of the mechanical system. The model can contain definitions of the parts of the mechanical system and definitions of the relationship between parts in the assembled mechanical system. The model can also contain additional information pertinent to assembly, such as process constraints or material properties. The upper right window of the main user interface provides graphic output and part/subassembly selection. The apparatus additionally comprises hardware, software, or the combination thereof for using the input device to load a model of a mechanical system into the storage system, and using the output device to communicate disassembly sequences. For ease of understanding, the disassembly sequence is presented in reverse order as an assembly sequence. In addition, Jones et al. teach a microprocessor, a multiprocessor, or a workstation. Input device can comprise a voice input system. Output device can comprise an audio output system, a computer network interface, a disk or tape writer, or combination thereof. Storage systems can comprise semiconductor memory, disk storage, tape storage, a computer network connection to other storage resources, or combinations thereof. Jones et al. and the prior art of record fail to specifically teach a work standard creation subsystem including a retrieving unit for retrieving, from the database, the operation phrases including a first character designated by a user, object

Art Unit: 3623

phrases including a second character designated by the user, and comment phrases including a third character designated by the user, and a selecting unit for selecting one operation phrase from the retrieved operation phrases, selecting one object phrase from the retrieved object phrases, and selecting one comment phrase from the retrieved comment phrases, according to an operation by the user; a standard manhour database having a second storage unit for storing records each constituted by the work standard data described by an operation phrase, object phrase, and comment phrase and a standard manhour associated with the work standard data; a standard manhour setting subsystem connected to said work standard creation subsystem and said standard manhour database, said standard manhour setting subsystem having a matching search unit for executing a matching search of each record of the standard manhour database based on a phrase portion for the work standard data, to which the standard manhour is to be set, from said work standard creation subsystem, and for assigning the standard manhour according to the searched record as a set manhour for the work standard data; and a work assignment subsystem for inputting data of a predetermined composition condition, said work assignment subsystem having a download unit for downloading the work standard data with the assigned manhour data from said standard manhour setting subsystem and a composing unit for divisionally composing the work standard data to a plurality of stations on the basis of the composition condition.

Frisina (U.S. Patent 6,385,621) in combination with Jones et al. suggest providing an integration program, which integrates a job planning program with a

Art Unit: 3623

standards development program to allow a user to use such standards to build a complete job plan. The computer integration system includes a first software program for producing job standards based on predetermined user queries and information contained in a first database, a second software program for producing a job plan and work orders based on information supplied by the user, and an integration software program having means for supplying data from one software program to the other software program for filling predefined fields such that the user can generate a job standard in the first software program and transfer the developed job standard into a job plan saved in the second software program. A key feature is the use of the job standard program logic and historical database to allow the program to propose the initial parameters for the job plan. "Standard" means one or more operations typically required to complete a specific task including one or more of the hours, craft, duration, materials and tools required to complete a task, which are determined by the software program. Using the standards program forces the user to follow predetermined logic to develop job plans using methods based work standards during plan preparation, and thus, improves the accuracy of the manpower and resource allocations that must be made. When activated, the job standards logic tree will be executed to generate the job plan parameters. Once the job standards program is initiated, the job standards program searches for the job plan in the job planning program, and if available, will retrieve data from the job plan tables by job plan number. Additionally, Frisina teaches a computer, a first software program, and a second software program with an integration software program. Both of the programs have access to databases that

contain tables of information. Frisina in combination with Jones et al. and the prior art of record fail to teach a work standard creation subsystem including a retrieving unit for retrieving, from the database, the operation phrases including a first character designated by a user, object phrases including a second character designated by the user, and comment phrases including a third character designated by the user, and a selecting unit for selecting one operation phrase from the retrieved operation phrases, selecting one object phrase from the retrieved object phrases, and selecting one comment phrase from the retrieved comment phrases, according to an operation by the user.

Suzuki et al. (U.S. Patent 5,010,486) in combination with Frisina and Jones et al. suggests a translation apparatus for translating a sentence from an original language into a sentence of a target language, which includes a verifying means for verifying all words contained in an inputted sentence with respect to dictionaries for translation, prior to translation process, and an output means for outputting each word which has been registered in the dictionaries on the basis of a result obtained by the verifying means. Suzuki et al. in combination with Frisina and Jones et al. and the prior art of record fail to teach a work standard creation subsystem including a retrieving unit for retrieving, from the database, the operation phrases including a first character designated by a user, object phrases including a second character designated by the user, and comment phrases including a third character designated by the user, and a selecting unit for selecting one operation phrase from the retrieved operation phrases, selecting

Art Unit: 3623

one object phrase from the retrieved object phrases, and selecting one comment phrase from the retrieved comment phrases, according to an operation by the user.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Maruya et al. (GB 2 242 292 A) disclose a building maintenance management system, which can supply proper instruction notes to workers who perform cleaning, maintenance, and inspection of a building to include standard values.

Art Unit: 3623

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Michael C. Heck whose telephone number is (571) 272-6730. The Examiner can normally be reached Monday thru Friday between the hours of 8:30am - 4:30pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq R. Hafiz can be reached on (571) 273-6729.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

**Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**

Or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300

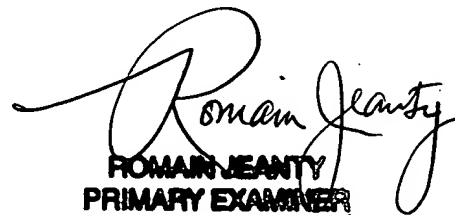
[Official communications; including After Final communications labeled "**Box AF**"]

(571) 273-6730

[Informal/Draft communication, labeled "**PROPOSED**" or "**DRAFT**"]

mch
mch

27 September 2005


ROMAIN JEANTY
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Art Unit 3623
9-28-05